

# Chicopee Register

## Parade for the ages

City rallies for a special birthday celebration

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

A quiet neighborhood was anything but on the afternoon of May 2, as a car parade for the ages passed through. Nearly 300 vehicles took turns honking their horns, rolling down Roosevelt Avenue in celebration of Brandon Sullivan's 29th birthday.

Sullivan suffers from a developmental disability but has never allowed it to interfere with his deep-rooted passion for parades. When the 2020 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade was canceled, Sullivan was utterly disappointed; little did he know that the city's biggest parade of the year would soon be thrown in his honor.

"Oh my gosh, it was amazing. I was like, 'Wow.' I saw a lot of people that I know. I like how people were walking out and giving me their signs. That was incredible," said Sullivan, alluding to the many parade participants who offered him hand-made signs wishing him a happy birthday.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Above: Brandon Sullivan stands with his mother Denise outside their Chicopee home May 2, following a car parade organized in celebration of his birthday.

Right: Chicopee's Police and Fire departments lead the car parade procession past the house of Brandon Sullivan May 2.



BUSINESS

## Tourism takes a hit during pandemic

Business leaders answer questions during Facebook Q&A

By Tyler S. Witkop  
Staff Writer

Across the country, businesses of all sizes are taking a hit as a result of restrictions to help limit the spread of infections caused by the novel coronavirus. Here in Western Massachusetts, among the hardest hit sectors is that of Tourism, Hospitality and Arts and Culture.

To help spread the message and to encourage future business, two local leaders joined state Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow) of the first Hampden and Hampshire District, Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerg-

ing Technologies, for a Facebook Live Q&A session Friday, May 1. Joining Lesser were Mary Kay Wydra, president of the Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, and John Doleva, president and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

"Every family and small business has felt pain from this crisis, but we know one sector that has been particularly hard hit is our vital tourism and hospitality industry, which is the third largest source of employment for Massachusetts families," Lesser said. "We must all work together to keep families safe, stop the spread of this virus, and ensure our economy



Eric Lesser

recovers." According to Wydra, tourism and hospitality has been "hard hit" by state and local orders closing non-essential business, limiting gatherings to 10 or fewer people and keeping six feet of separation between others. She said since Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued his stay-at-home advisory in March, there have been 118 pieces of lost business in Western Massachusetts, which represent business and trade conventions at places like the MassMutual Center in Springfield and the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. That equates to roughly \$49 million in lost revenue to the local economy

coming from sources including food and retail vendors and booked hotel rooms.

"Hopefully the numbers won't keep climbing," Wydra said.

**Trickle Effect**

But more than just individual businesses struggling, Wydra said the shutdown also hampers state and municipal revenues through sales, meal and occupancy taxes.

Doleva, of Wilbraham, said he and the staff at the Hall of Fame were looking forward to re-opening the Hall in mid-June, which had been closed starting Feb. 5 to complete a multi-million dollar renovation project. They were also looking forward to hosting some of the world's greatest basketball

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# Meal service making a difference throughout the city

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

A team of courageous city employees is committed to ensuring that no Chicopee youths go unfed. Amid the pandemic, the Chicopee Public Schools' Food Service Department distributes approximately 24,000 free meals to residents 21-years-old and younger on a weekly basis.

"The staff has just been so dedicated. They show up to work everyday with smiles on their faces and a positive attitude. I'm so proud of them. They have been absolute heroes throughout this whole closure; its a special group of people," said Food Services Director Melanie Wilk.

On May 1, Wilk traveled to each of the 13 locations where food service workers are distributing meals three times a week while schools remain closed. At each stop, she handed employees a certificate symbolizing the city's appreciation.

Assistant Superintendent Alvin Morton and Farm-to-School Coordinator Greta Shwachman joined Wilk at multiple sites last Friday. At Bowe Elementary School, Morton was visibly moved as he praised the contributions that have been made by food service workers.

"Considering the fact that we're living in some very abnormal times, they've provided some type of normalcy," said Morton. "They're an integral part of what we do. They truly have been anchors for the Chicopee families."

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the district distributes two meals to each individual who utilizes the resource. Identification is not required, and parents can pick up food for their children.

Proper social distancing is prioritized by all those affiliated with the meals campaign. After placing meals on carts, food services employees "step back and have the families grab the meals that way," said Shwachman.

In an attempt to inform youths on the importance of healthy eating, Shwachman established a Facebook page titled, "Chicopee Fresh Classroom." The online movement has shown considerable progress thus far.



Food service workers serve meals to Chicopee youths 21-years-old and under on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 13 schools throughout the city.



Pedrie Pates (left) and Deborah Renkie; Bowe kitchen workers dressed as Chicopees during the May 1 meal delivery.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

"We are trying to get educational content out to families related to food and gardening," said Shwachman. "We have Food Corps service members in the district that would normally be in the classroom and garden teaching kids about food and nutrition, but we're trying to take that and bring it online so that everyone can access it."

Shwachman added that the district continues to support local farms. Each week, she "coordinates ordering some of the fresh produce that we use to serve with emergency meals."

Wilk has been impressed by the resourcefulness that has been exhibited by the entirety of the Food Service Department. During a difficult time, food service workers have risen to the call.

"It gets me emotional, honestly," said Wilk. "The second I said, 'We're going to be feeding when schools close; this is not a vacation,' they were like, 'Yes, I'm in; tell us what we need to do.' They're so motivated; they keep me motivated. I'm so proud of the staff; it's unbelievable."

The meals distribution campaign will not end when summer arrives. While the city's parks are typically used as meal sites during the summer, it is expected that this summer's meals program will

also operate out of school parking lots to best ensure social distancing.

The district's food service workers are performing admirably and greatly miss the presence of the students whom they serve. Shwachman looks forward to interacting with students in person when it is safe to do so once more.

"Normally, right now, we would be

out in the garden planting lettuce with hundreds of kids," she said. "It's really a bummer that we can't do that, but what we are going to do is plant the gardens with our fall crops so that when we hopefully come back in the fall, there will be something for everyone to harvest so that we can get right back into the garden right away."

## Cutting at the fabric of community

Residents stitch masks for use during pandemic

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

Throughout the city, residents from different walks of life are stepping up to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. By providing others with homemade masks, dozens of "everyday" citizens are

investing in the community's well-being.

"I have friends and family members who have contracted the virus so I just started making them and donating them, and giving them away to people," said Maureen Samson. "It's nice to help other people. I don't want anyone I know to get sick; you know?"

Samson, who has made dozens of masks, added that the process "isn't physical but it's tedious and takes time." That said, it is an action that she feels responsible to continue.

Late last month, an order from Mayor John Vieau mandated that masks must be worn inside all Chicopee businesses and establishments and an order from Gov. Charlie Baker mandating similar actions took effect May 6. However, masks and face coverings are becoming increasingly hard to come by.

Victoria Breton has taken extreme but necessary measures to produce as many masks as she can. Inside the Breton household, no fabric items are safe.

"I've cut up curtains and old bed sheets to get elastic and fabric to make these masks. There's a way to keep safe just from what you have," said Breton.

Materials such as elastic, fabric and thread are all crucial ingredients when it comes to mask-making. Unfortunately, these items are also becoming increasingly difficult to track down.

Jennifer Malooly is fortunate in that regard; her mother and grandmother are both avid quil-

ters. When the pandemic arrived in Chicopee, Malooly knew just what to start; she explained how she goes about creating masks.

"I basically cut out the fabric into four pieces and then sew it all together," she said. "At the end, I put in the elastic straps. Elastic's been hard to find for everybody, so I've been using regular hair ties; cutting them in half and using the elastic. It works out perfect and it's the perfect size."

A considerable number of Chicopee mask-makers are relying on Facebook pages such as the "Chicopee Area Community Forum Facebook Forum" and "Chicopee Marketplace" to inform the public as to the masks' availability.

"When I have some available, I just put them up there. First come, first serve; they're the ones that I'll give them to," said Malooly, who estimates that she has given out more than 100 masks.

Malooly claimed that she's happy to help and believes that it is not all that difficult for others to follow suit and help others. She explained her certainty that one person can make a difference in a community.

"There's always a way to help; you just have to look. I've always thought about helping my community without knowing how to do it. Then, I saw the need, knew that I could sew and make those so I chose that's what I would do. I'm going to go ahead and make these and give them out to the community for free to help people out," said Malooly.

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Municipal TV providing vital communication resources

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

In the absence of face-to-face conversations and public gatherings, virtual communication is essential to everyday life for many. During the pandemic, ChicopeeTV has proven its worth and emerged as one of the city's top resources.

"Ultimately, we're there for the community. That's the core of public access. It's to enable and empower people to use media to tell their story," said Jay Buckley, television operations/production and audio visual manager.

ChicopeeTV, a public access television studio, was well-equipped to pivot when the COVID-19 outbreak forced the city into lockdown in mid-March. Buckley explained that the studio has invested heavily in modernizing its image.

"We've made a good effort at re-branding to a degree. Beforehand, we were more known by our channel number. It had been Channel 5, and when Charter moved us around, we became Channel 191," said Buckley. "We never had an identity so about two years ago we latched on to ChicopeeTV as our identity. We also got a little younger and added some social media presence. To that end, we've been doing OK."

After building up a platform and an



FILE PHOTO

The studios of ChicopeeTV, the city's public access television station, is offering vital resources helping to spread information to Chicopee residents during COVID-19.

audience, ChicopeeTV continued to expand its programming, which was in turn altered by the coronavirus. Over the past two months, it is footage from the archives that has drawn increased popularity.

"Once the pandemic hit, we started putting up archival footage; we had old graduations and city and sporting events

that we had in the archives and recently digitized. We started putting those up on Facebook. For whatever reason, the graduations particularly seemed to strike a chord," said Buckley.

ChicopeeTV's viewership ratings have increased steadily during the lockdown. While there are few positives to be

taken from the novel coronavirus, ChicopeeTV itself is one positive development.

"We're reaching people and feel really fortunate," said Buckley. "One of the things we were able to latch onto is we're all about Chicopee. That's the community that we serve. For better or for worse, we don't go outside of Chicopee, and that's our full interest; Chicopee."

Buckley and Director Wade Wofford serve as the studio's two full-time employees. They're joined by part-timers Mickey Prout and Brendan Provost.

On Tuesday evenings spread all throughout the year, ChicopeeTV is responsible for broadcasting meetings of City Council. When the lockdown prevented the board from convening in person at City Hall, Buckley and his team were up to the task of facilitating virtual meetings.

"We host the meeting ourselves as our ChicopeeTV account and take the output of a computer into our live stream box, stream it to the Web on Facebook and Vimeo and also do a little bit of TV magic and broadcast it on Channel 191 here in the city of Chicopee," he said. "At this point, we're happy and excited to be able to get everyone's face and voice on air and out to the public on a consistent basis. At this point, that feels like a pretty good win for us."

ON THE SHELF



at the  
CHICOPEE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following is the program list for the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front St., which is offering virtual programming this month. For more information or to register for programs, call 594-1800, ext. 4.

FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Story Time with Erin

Thursday, May 7 – 10:30 a.m.

Children and families ages 3-years-old and older are invited for a Story Time Thursday, May 7 at 10:30 a.m. utilizing the remote video conferencing software, Zoom. Email Youth Services Coordinator Erin Daly at edaly@cwmar.org for the meeting link.

Tiny Tots with Emily

Wednesday, May 13 – 10:30 a.m.

Families with babies and toddlers are invited to participate with the Tiny Tots programming Wednesday, May 13 at 10:30 a.m. The program will take place using the remote video conferencing software, Zoom. Email eayers@cwmar.org for the meeting link.

FOR TEENS

Visit the Teen Space blog for e-book recommendations and a Virtual Anime Club, www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org/teenspot/2020/04/23/virtual-anime-club/. Follow the link to Crunchyroll to watch "Keep Your Hands Off Eizouken!" Then come back to the blog and share your thoughts in the Google Form.

Check out Audiobook Sync for free audiobooks for teens at www.audiobooksync.com.

Counting  
Turtles

Did you find Turley the Turtle in last week's edition of the Chicopee Register? Turley appeared 11 times.

Here are the official reader submissions:

Camille Lytwyn, Easthampton: 10  
Steven Lytwyn, Easthampton: 10  
Katie Marcinowski, Easthampton: 10

Girl Scouts accepting  
scholarship  
applications

The Chicopee Service Unit of Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts are now accepting applications for their third annual scholarship program.

Criteria for scholarship consideration includes girls who were active Girl Scouts as high school seniors, who exemplify all that Girl Scouting has to offer and who will be attending post-secondary schools full-time in the fall of 2020. Scholarship applications may be obtained by emailing GirlScoutsofChicopee@gmail.com. Anyone wishing to join Girl Scouting can find more information at www.gscwm.org

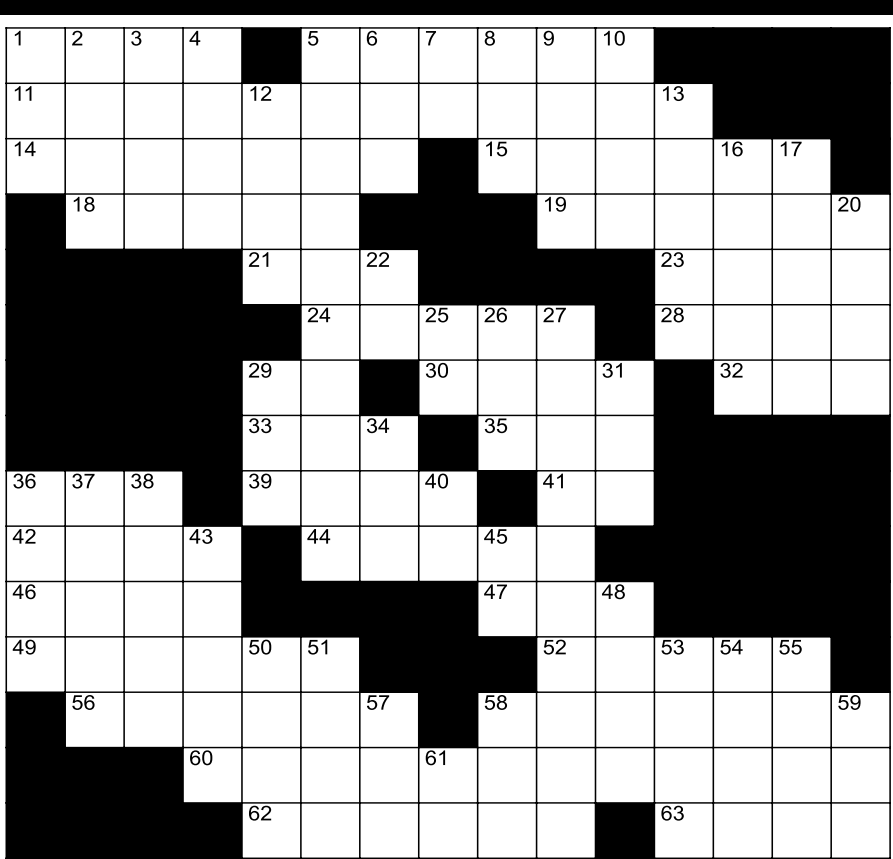
NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 5. Not bad
- 11. NYC Mayor
- 14. Essays
- 15. Walk lightly
- 18. Those who utilize
- 19. Actress Judd
- 21. One-time community of nations
- 23. Norwegian river
- 24. Unconscious states
- 28. Make muddy
- 29. Unit of volume
- 30. Consciousnesses
- 32. Envision
- 33. When you aim to get there
- 35. Electronic data

processing

- 36. Passports are some
- 39. Snake-like fish
- 41. Military flyers (abbr.)
- 42. Popular computers
- 44. Ecological stage
- 46. Wings
- 47. Used in combination
- 49. Laid back
- 52. Princess's headgear
- 56. Musical composition
- 58. Famed Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Track event

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- 2. Instead
- 3. Gifts for the poor

4. A type of gin

- 5. Torments
- 6. One point south of due east
- 7. Actor Pacino
- 8. Feline
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. Short cries for help
- 12. Straits can sometimes be this
- 13. Further
- 16. Variety shows
- 17. Supernatural
- 20. A university in Connecticut
- 22. Atomic #27
- 25. Of I
- 26. We all have one
- 27. Religious guilds
- 29. This can sting
- 31. Sunscreen rating

34. Brew

- 36. Religious leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Jr.'s father
- 43. Ray-finned fish genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. S-shaped line
- 51. Small bunch of hay
- 53. Ripened
- 54. Crater on Mars
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Of the ears
- 58. To the \_\_\_ degree
- 59. Wood
- 61. Cools your home

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 8



## OFF THE BEAT & TRAIL

### High flying excitement

It's official. UFOs do exist. Whether they are natural phenomena, unknown human technology or the workings of some advanced lifeforms from beyond this world are questions that remained unanswered, but what is undeniable is that there are unknown objects – now referred to as unidentified aerial phenomena – in the skies above.



Tyler Witkop

This surprising news broke early last week, when the Pentagon officially released three videos showing UAPs recorded using infrared cameras. The videos had already been released by a private company in 2017 and 2018, and the U.S. Navy had acknowledged them in September of 2019. But now the videos are available for all of the public to view. For a life-long observer of the natural world and lover of the unexplained like myself, the news is remarkable and exciting.

As a young boy, I immersed myself in the pages of books like Jerome Clark's "Unexplained," essentially an encyclopedia of unexplained sightings and phenomena across the globe, as well as TV shows like "In Search Of." If it had to deal with hauntings, extraterrestrial life or strange creatures like Bigfoot, you can be sure I likely watched intently.

Certainly with age and the development of analytical skills, my opinions have shifted some. Eyewitness testimony is well-known for being flawed and easily manipulated, and there are some very unreliable and outlandish claims. But I do find interesting the number of similar reports made over the years regarding all phenomena, and I have always held out hope we would get answers.

Sadly, the recent news does nothing to answer the all important question humanity has sought for millennia: Are we alone in the Universe?

Perhaps even more striking is that the announcement barely seemed to raise eyebrows or cause the type of pandemonium science fiction writers and policy-makers predicted over generations. In fact, if you weren't paying attention, you easily could have missed it. I almost did. Trumping the announcement has been news of the novel coronavirus and who will replace Tom Brady as quarterback of the New England Patriots.

It's as though the people are saying 'Yeah, of course there are UFOs. Tell us what we don't know.' To be fair, that sentiment is correct, as regardless of origin, the objects in the video are unknown in origin and flying in the sky, recorded and observed by military pilots.

CNN reports the Pentagon previously studied recordings of encounters with unknown objects as part of a classified program that was launched at the request of former Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada. The program, which started in 2007, ended in 2012, after an assessment determined there were higher priorities that needed funding.

Hopefully the videos lead to a renewed interest in space and the natural world. Giving me hope, anyway, is that people aren't running in fear from what can't be explained and that leans toward the heart of scientific discovery and exploration in general. Without fear, we can increase understanding of life anywhere in the Universe and make new technological breakthroughs. That is truly out of this world.

#### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

## GUEST COLUMN

Joan E. B. Coombs



### Early May daze

Rainy weather and cooler than usual temperatures during these early May 2020 days are showing some appearances of spring. Well, somewhat. Yet, what brightens us up even more than our surrounding circumstances is the chance to celebrate unique and special days.

May's early calendar dates give us exceptional reasons to recognize "National Teachers Day" on May 5, and "Nurses Day" on May 6. Then on May 8 there's "Day Care Provider Day" and "Military Spouses Day."

Also it's surprising to learn from Holiday Insights, that May 9 is, "Lost Sock Memorial Day." Strange as it seems, "Clean up Your Room Day" is on May 10 — the same day as "Mother's Day." Curiosity asks: "Is it a Mom's mantra to clean up your room? If rooms were cleaned first, wouldn't that help solve the lost sock issues?"

Since all socks on the home front are happily paired, and the clean-up-your-room pleas have hap-

pened nonstop since the 2020 COVID-19 incubation, with what breath was left, a family member asked, "What else do you want this year for Mother's Day?"

Feeling that a response was the perfect time to show that "Grammar Doodles" was up to speed with knowing a few of the latest hot-topic terms, she replied.

"First, I'd like to 'slow the spread' when shopping by wearing an XL, wrap-around, Glad-Guard garbage bag."

"That'll be an interesting sight..."

"Second, I need to be wrapped tight so as to 'flatten the curve.'"

"That'll be a squeal deal."

"Could we find color-coordinated boots, gloves, and a mask? I've got a straw hat."

"I'll have to go online..."

"Lines? Talk about lines? All stores have aisle lines of 'social distance' shoppers trying to follow one-way arrows!"

"Yup."

"I'll be s-o-o grateful to

be stay and play outdoors; away from my personal pan-n-n-demic."

"What? Wha-da-ya mean?"

"I'm not complaining. I'm thankful for food to cook. But, it seems like over these past six weeks of our staying in — that I've made and served gazillions of meals and desserts. I've seen stacked dishes. (Sigh) Peaked flatware. Skillets. Crockpot. Steamer. Plus — pots and pans."

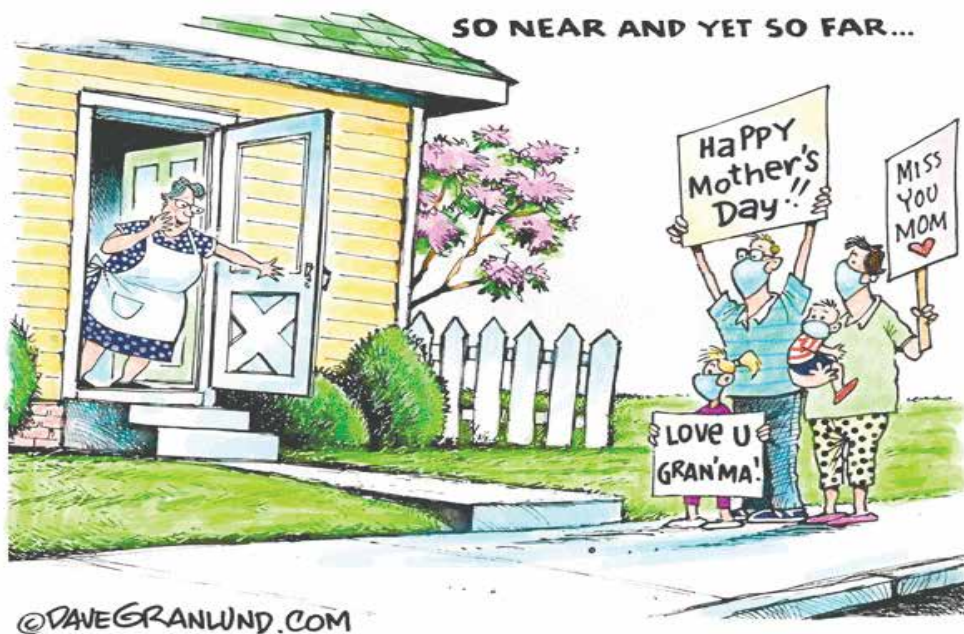
"And?"

While The Hub comfortably sat down to use his iPhone to place an online order, the Mom snuggled beside him asking, "Do you think you could find me a book online too?"

"Sure!" "What's the title?"

"Novel Virus."

These recent months, weeks, days and hours can befuddle and bewilder us. Finding glimpses of humor in everyday issues and circumstances can help us get over those thump bumps — especially during our early May daze.



## IN THE GARDEN

Roberta McQuaid



### Why I think of asparagus on Mother's Day

It was four years ago that I got asparagus crowns for Mother's Day! When I think back I laugh on the inside thinking of just how perfect a gift it was. Some women get jewelry and I get asparagus. Good thing my husband knows that I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. Just yesterday we walked around the yard and remarked at the tiny spears popping up; it was honestly a very nice memory associat-

ed with a special day. In the event you are the lucky recipient of asparagus crowns this Sunday, or if you are simply in the market to install a bed of this vegetable, read on.

Once asparagus is planted it will return, season after season for many years, perhaps 20 or more. Keep this in mind when choosing the location of your asparagus patch...you may have to live with your decision a long time. Some gardeners pre-

fer to prepare a site separate from the vegetable garden while others locate it within the main gardening space. Each has its pros and cons. With the later approach, the bed can be inspected during the entire growing season, not only when the plants are productive. If you take this approach keep in mind that the ferny foliage gets quite tall by summer, so site it in

See **ASPARAGUS** page 9

## WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

*The Chicopee Register* welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com) or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

**EDITOR**  
Tyler Witkop  
[chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com)

**STAFF WRITER**  
Dalton Zbierski  
[dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**



@Chicopee Register

**WEB**

[www.chicopeeregister.turley.com](http://www.chicopeeregister.turley.com)

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Wendy Delcamp  
[wdelcamp@turley.com](mailto:wdelcamp@turley.com)

**Editor**  
Tyler Witkop  
[chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com)

#### WEB

[www.chicopeeregister.turley.com](http://www.chicopeeregister.turley.com)



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Community Foundation awards \$500,000 in local grants

Domestic abuse, food resources targeted in fifth round of funding

SPRINGFIELD – A new round of grants totaling \$500,000, targeting non-profits providing front-line responses to those needing shelter, food resources, serving survivors of domestic abuse and those needing personal protective equipment, has been announced by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund provided \$500,000 to Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts to support the Foundation’s response to the pandemic crisis in the region. The fund was announced in early April by Gov. Charlie Baker and was conceived by Lauren Baker and the One8 Foundation as a way to respond to the crisis statewide, focused on providing supports to vulnerable populations and essential workers. The funding is being used by the Community Foundation for its fifth round of grant-making, this time targeting 26 Western Massachusetts nonprofits that are doing work in providing meals and food, assistance to survivors of domestic abuse,

and emergency shelter. Nonprofits receiving the new grants totaling the \$500,000 are: Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holyoke (meals and food); Caring Health Center, Springfield (basic needs and medical supplies); Center for New Americans, Northampton (basic needs assistance, utility and housing stability); Clinical and Support Options for the Friends of the Homeless, Springfield (emergency shelter); Community Action, Greenfield (diapers and basic needs); Community Health Center of Franklin County, Greenfield (COVID testing); Craig’s Doors, Amherst (emergency shelter); Enlace de Familias, Holyoke (food, personal care, basic needs); Gandara Mental Health Center, West Springfield (basic needs, PPE, transportation, housing stability); Greater Springfield Senior Services, Springfield (meals and food); Grow Food Northampton (food distribution); Highland-Valley Elder Services, Florence (PPE); Hilltown Community Health Centers, Worthington (basic needs, medical supplies) Holyoke Health Center (medical services); LifePath, Greenfield (meals and food); Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Services, Springfield (meals and food); New

England Learning Center for Women in Transition, Greenfield (assistance to survivors of domestic violence); New North Citizens Council, Springfield (basic needs, utility, housing stability); Northampton Survival Center (food distribution); Providence Ministries for the Needy, Holyoke (meals and food); Safe Passage, Northampton (assistance to victims and survivors of domestic violence); ServiceNet, Northampton (emergency shelter); Survival Centers, Amherst Survival Center (meals and food); WestMass ElderCare, Holyoke (meals and food); Womanshelter Companeras, Holyoke (domestic violence intervention, sheltering); and YWCA of Western Massachusetts, Springfield (personal protective equipment for residents, staff). To date the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley has invested \$1.8 million in grants to nonprofits in Western Massachusetts that are on the front lines of serving vulnerable populations affected by the crisis. Since its inception, the Response Fund has raised \$4.2 million from 25 businesses and foundations, nearly 400 individuals and families and the statewide Relief Fund. To eliminate duplication and to

more efficiently meet current and emerging needs as a result of the pandemic, the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund is working with regional community foundations. Donations to the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund consist of grants from foundations and businesses, as well as individual donors. Learn more at MA-Covid19ReliefFund.org. According to Katie Allan Zobel, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, “This infusion of resources from the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund allows us to address emerging needs in the areas of food, shelter and to assist those serving the survivors of domestic violence in our region. We are deeply grateful to these nonprofits, their staff and volunteers, that are providing essential care and resources to our community. And we thank the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund and its leaders and donors for their generosity and recognition of the essential role that community foundations throughout the state can play in distributing these funds effectively and efficiently.” For more information or to make a contribution, visit [www.communityfoundation.org/covid19](http://www.communityfoundation.org/covid19).

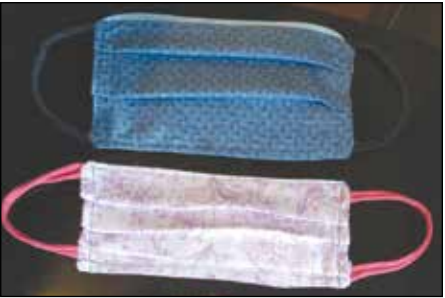
Share your stories of staying at home

The Chicopee Register wants to know how you’re coping with the coronavirus closures and how they’ve changed all of our lives — no school, no work, social distancing and staying at home. We can’t meet our neighbors in the schoolyards, playing fields or workplaces, but we can all share a few snapshots of what life’s like with the kids in the house and the home office working overtime. Take a minute to send in an update on how you’re doing, what fun enrichment activities the kids have been up to, or anything else that’s made the past two weeks a special time in your home. Include full names of the writer or photographer, and anyone visible in

each photo. We’ll print the best entries in next week’s newspaper, and in subsequent weeks as the state of emergency continues. The best way to contact us is at [tyler@turley.com](mailto:tyler@turley.com). We would also be glad to publish children’s artwork, essays or photos created during the school closure. Include the creator’s full name, age, and school attended. For all submissions, also include a telephone number and email address. We won’t publish this information, but may use it to verify identities or ask follow-up questions. Stay safe out and let us know how you’re doing!

Governor orders use of facial coverings

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito administration issued an order May 1 requiring the use of masks or facial coverings in public places where they cannot socially distance from others. All residents over the age of 2-years-old will be required to use a facial covering or mask in public places where maintaining proper social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are not possible. This order went into effect May 6 and supersedes previously issued guidance relative to mask use. The order applies to all workers and customers of businesses and other organizations that are currently open to the public and permitted to operate as essential businesses, such as grocery stores, pharmacies and other retail stores. Residents are also required to wear a mask or face covering at all times when using any means of transportation service or public mass transit. Facial coverings include anything that covers one’s nose and mouth, including a mask, scarf or bandana. Health care masks should not be used and should be



Facial coverings, like these homemade masks, will be required in public places where proper social distancing cannot be maintained, following a recent order by Gov. Charlie Baker. The order went into effect May 6. preserved for health care workers and first responders. Cloth masks should not be worn by young children under the age of 2, persons with difficulty breathing or those who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. For more information, visit [mass.gov](http://mass.gov).

Arrest made in May 1 homicide

One man is custody following an evening homicide at an Elmer Street residence Friday. According to a press release from the office of Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni, detectives from the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to his office, as well as detectives from the Chicopee Police Department arrested Alex Cardenas-DeJesus, 33, of Chicopee. Cardenas-DeJesus has been charged with murder, illegal carrying of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition. He was arraigned Monday in Chicopee District Court. According to Gulluni’s office, the Chicopee Police Department responded to 11 Elmer St. at approximately 5:57 p.m. Friday, May 1. Upon arrival, officers located a male victim suffering from what appeared to be gunshot wounds. First responders began emergency recovery efforts but were unsuccessful. The victim has been identified as Yasan Cabrera-Otero, 26, of Springfield. Chicopee police as well as the Massachusetts State Police immediately launched a homicide investigation,



Alex Cardenas-DeJesus, 33, of Chicopee, has been charged with murder in connection with the shooting death of Yasan Cabrera-Otero, 26, of Springfield. quickly collecting information identifying a suspect that led to the arrest in the early morning hours of Saturday, May 2. According to the press release, Cardenas-DeJesus was apprehended at approximately 3:10 a.m. Gulluni offers his sympathies to the family of Cabrera-Ortero.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

**NOTICE**

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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PARADE from page 1

ing him a happy birthday.

Among the parade’s many participants were Colleen Court members hailing from Chicopee, Springfield, Holyoke and South Hadley. Ava Baron, the 2020 Chicopee Colleen, learned about the event on Facebook and immediately decided that she couldn’t miss it.

“We were all so excited to do it,” said Baron. “It’s so awesome; seeing other Colleens here from past years and other towns. We love being outside and being able to see each other, but we’re also trying to stay safe, practice social distancing and wear our masks.”

A Chicopee fire truck and police cruiser were stationed at the front of the parade, which embarked from an Elms College parking lot. Another police cruiser tailed the parade, and Public Information Officer Mike Wilk stood near Sullivan throughout the entirety of the procession.

“It’s an honor to be a part of this. It was pretty epic. For this many people to come here today to drive in this parade for this young man, it speaks volumes,” said Wilk, referring to the fact that participants drove in from as far north as New Hampshire.

Christine Demears, Sullivan’s neighbor, watched the festivity from across the street. While Demears knew that a parade was to occur, she was taken away by its sheer magnitude.

“It was unbelievable; I never expected anything like this. It brought tears to my eyes, really. I’ve known [Sullivan]

for a long time, and parades are something he really enjoys. I really think he loved this,” said Demears, holding a set of balloons wishing Sullivan a happy birthday.

A number of businesses partook in the fun, and multiple towing companies committed their fleets of rigs to partake in the parade. Motorcycles, classic cars and a contingent of Jeeps also rode past Sullivan during the 30-minute procession.

Last Saturday’s weather was ideal for such an event; Victor Rodriguez drove his Jeep with the top off. Admitting that it was unfortunate

that the Holyoke parade was canceled, Rodriguez jumped on the opportunity to join the May 2 initiative.

“It’s a shame that we couldn’t have a St. Patrick’s Day parade and everything, but we’re here to show some love. We’re all here to show everybody that we’re still together. You couldn’t ask for a better day and a better time,” he said.

Denise Sullivan, Brandon’s adoptive mother, launched the idea for the parade last month by creating a Facebook page. She was overwhelmed by the response, which reaffirmed to her the city’s great character.

“It was unbelievable how everybody rallied even amidst this pandemic; doing it in a respectful manner,” she said. “The community has really supported Brandon, and I don’t know how I’ll ever be able to thank everybody for the time and effort that the put into this. I think that this speaks volumes to the community support that we have here in Chicopee.”



The Chicopee Colleen court waits in anticipation ahead of the car parade that occurred near Chicopee Center last Saturday.



Nicole Lacroix and Joe Poirier arrived with their Jeep to support Brandon Sullivan with a special car parade celebrating his birthday.



Brandon waves to the cars driving past his home in celebration of his 29th birthday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Christine Demears, a neighbor of the Sullivans, holds balloons celebrating Brandon’s birthday.

Over the past few weeks we have seen a sharp increase in fresh meat prices, due to limited supply, and high demand. We will not run out of meat, however certain items or cuts may be less available than others. Our frozen sections continue to provide great values with an extensive selection and variety, and are a great alternative, we encourage you to check them out! Please note, beginning May 6th, per the order of the State of Massachusetts, anyone entering the premises must wear a face covering and we will be required to refuse entry to anyone who does not comply. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during these unusual circumstances. Be well and stay safe!

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USDA INSP. SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.. <b>99¢</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE IN PORTERHOUSE or T-BONE STEAKS <b>\$7.99</b> lb
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USDA INSP. • BUTCHER WAGON BONELESS HAM STEAKS <b>\$1.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN TRIDENT FRESH SALMON BITES..... <b>\$5.99</b> ea 2.85 lb box
<b>SLICED IN OUR DELI</b>	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN DIAMOND REEF RAW SHRIMP <b>\$12.99</b> ea EASY PEEL 16/20 CT 2 lb bag
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BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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# Sports

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## COVID-19

# Summer leagues now coming into question

*Following the closure of spring sports, many summer leagues are being forced to do the same*

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In just a short period of time, the landscape of even summer sports has now changed with a number of baseball leagues cancelling play and others postponed indefinitely while the leagues wait out the “surge.”

But in the case of some very talented athletes, the 2020 baseball season has been completely shuttered.

First, it was the postponement of Major League Baseball along with the complete cancellation of spring sports for the collegiate level. Now, two of the most prominent college leagues have cancelled their seasons for the summer, citing the risks involved for the league as a whole.

The Cape Cod Baseball League and the New England Collegiate Baseball League have cancelled their 2020 campaigns, which were set to start in June. The cancellation leaves no opportunities for teams to play at

See **SUMMER** page 8

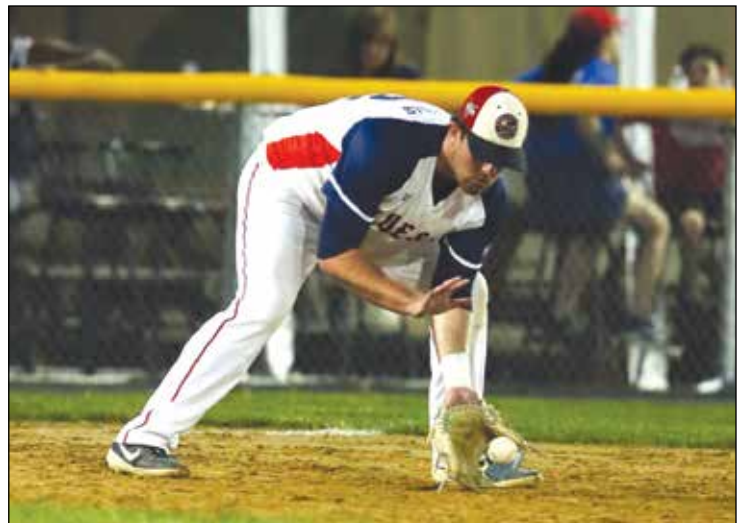


FILE PHOTOS

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is still hoping to have its regular season, though it may be delayed.



American Legion baseball is also in danger of being cancelled this summer.



College baseball will not be played in the area as the NECBL cancelled its season. The Valley Blue Sox are based in Holyoke.



Recreational leagues like the Valley Wheel Baseball League and the Quabbin Valley League are all on hold waiting to see if Massachusetts “re-opens.”

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

# Senior athletes to be highlighted in coming weeks; submissions sought

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

Over the next several weeks, the sports section will have stories and photos about the various spring sports teams that were

never even able to have a practice, and eventually saw their full season cancelled.

We will be talking with spring coaches and athletic directors, but would also love to hear from senior players about their feelings about the spring season being cancelled.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged

to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at [sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com). In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn’t.

## COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

# NECBL cancels 2020 season

*The Valley Blue Sox play their home games in Holyoke*

NORTH ADAMS – The New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) has announced that its board of directors, comprised of executives from its 13 member teams and officers, have voted to cancel the 2020 summer collegiate baseball season.

This decision was reached after a careful and thoughtful review of the guidance from federal, state and local officials, the leadership of our host communities, and recommendations from the CDC and medical community. The conclusion was that canceling the 2020 season was necessary for the health, safety and well-being of our players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, fans and host families.

We understand that this decision will result in hardship and disappointment to our student-athletes who have already

lost their college spring baseball season. For this reason, it breaks our hearts and runs counter to our competitive instincts and spirit. However, our first priority and obligation must always be the health and well-being of our players and our community. We promise to use this time out, and all of our resources, to make our 2021 season something truly special for our players, coaches and fans.

We are part of the communities that host our member teams. We encourage our teams, as organizations, individually and working with their volunteers, to support community first responders and their local business sponsors, many of whom are restaurants that are going through difficult financial times. To show our appreciation to our host communities and supporters, we will dedicate Opening Day 2021 in each of our venues to thank, honor and support community organizations and

See **BASEBALL** page 8

## AUTO RACING

# Claremont Speedway event cancelled

REGION – Tri Track Open Modified Series officials announced on Saturday, in collaboration with Claremont Speedway, that the event originally scheduled for May 24 will not happen as scheduled. New

Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu released new guidance for the state on Friday that will not allow gatherings to occur for the race event. The Tri Track Open Modified Series continues to keep the safety of our race

teams, drivers, staff and fans in mind with decisions. We will provide additional guidance around the 2020 schedule once it is available. Our intention is to hit the track for action this season.”



Individuals interested in supporting the campaign can contribute to the Thunderbirds' Foundation directly: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/3391100>.

# Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League looking for new players

to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to [www.valleywheelbaseball.com](http://www.valleywheelbaseball.com). The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at [wheel12@comcast.net](mailto:wheel12@comcast.net) or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

# Sign-ups on hold for Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League

league is hopefully to begin play sometime in June or July. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is open to holding a modified schedule if needed, but it is also still hold-

The Valley Blue Sox are the main local team to Western Massachusetts in the NECBL. The Blue Sox have won two league championship in 2017 and 2018, and were in the semifinal round in 2019.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE OF SALE

By Ma. Gen Laws c.255, Sec. 39A, **CHUCK’S TOWING 78 West St., Chicopee, MA** is holding a private sale of a vehicle **May 14, 2020 at 2:00 PM** to satisfy garage keepers lien for storage and towing charges and expenses of notices of sale.

**2006 BMW 525 XI**  
VIN# WBANF33536CS37910  
Owner: Michael Sullivan  
Date of Tow: 11-26-18  
**2008 Infiniti G35**  
VIN# JNKBV61F58M279819  
Owner: Ginette M. Varges  
Co-Owner: Steven Morales  
Date of Tow: 9-22-18  
4/23 4/30 5/7/2020

## INVITATION FOR BID - CEL BID #20-0481

Chicopee Electric Light (CEL) invites bids from qualified bidders for TREE TRIMMING/FORESTRY SERVICES (ANNUAL) as described in BID 20-0481. The successful bidder will be awarded a ONE (1) year contract. CEL, at its discretion shall have the option to grant the successful bidder an extension for up to two (2) additional (1) year periods. Evaluation for extension of the contract will be done yearly prior to the end of the contract prior to the end of any contract extension, but in no case shall the contract exceed three (3) years in total. Prices shall remain firm during the contract term and for any extension and the conditions of the contract shall remain the same.

Specifications may be

obtained at Chicopee Electric Light located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020, Monday through Friday 8:30 am until 3:30 pm.

All questions or requests for clarification regarding this BID should be made in writing to the attention of Natalie A. Colberg with the BID #20-0481 in the subject line.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier’s check payable to the order of the Chicopee Electric Light for a sum not less than 5% of the of the bid price. In lieu of a check, a bid bond may be submitted in an amount not less than 5% of the bid price. Checks, if submitted, will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after the award of the order.

A payment bond in an amount equal to 50 percent of the total amount of the bid with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the payment under the contract for labor and materials.

All bids for this project are subject to applicable bidding laws of Massachusetts, including M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 44A-H and M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Department of Labor Standards under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 26-27D.

All proposals must be submitted in DUPLICATE form, sealed and marked on the outside “CEL BID #20-0481” and be received at the office of Chicopee Electric

Light (CEL), Attn., Natalie A. Colberg, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020 **no later than 2:00 pm on May 28, 2020** at which time and place they will be publicly opened.

CEL reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities and minor irregularities in bids received, if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the CEL to do so.

**Natalie A. Colberg**  
Purchasing

5/07/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-8600  
Docket No. HD20P0632EA**

**Estate of:  
John Anthony Zwiercan  
Also Known As:  
John A. Zwiercan  
Date of Death:  
February 17, 2020  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Kathleen A. Krzystofik** of Chicopee, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Kathleen A. Krzystofik** of Chicopee, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal

Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 5/07/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD20P0662EA**

**Estate of: Roland R Boutin  
Also known as:  
Roger Roland Boutin,  
Roland R Boutin, Jr.  
Date of Death: 06/27/2019  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Roger R Boutin, III**

of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Roger R Boutin, III** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **05/20/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice

regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 22, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate

5/07/2020

## SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **May 15, 2020 at Interstate Towing, Inc** the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

**2000 DODGE NEON**  
VIN:1B3ES46C4YD871210  
Sonya L. Robinson  
40 North Main St  
Whitinsville, MA 01588

**2007 CHEVROLET AVEO**  
VIN: KL1TDS6677B124640  
Brian Reyes  
152 Plainfield St  
Springfield, MA 01104

**2001 FORD FLEX**  
VIN: 2FMGK5CC8BBD04718  
Mia Carroll  
4787 Nermont Place  
Gary, Indiana 46409  
4/30, 5/07, 5/14/2020

## TOURISM from page 1

personalities for the annual enshrinement ceremony, which was set to celebrate the late Kobe Bryant, who was killed with his daughter and seven others in a helicopter crash in January, and who was inducted into the Hall in his first year of eligibility.

“We get 60 percent of our visitation from Memorial Day to Labor Day,” Doleva said, noting the shutdown will have a “significant effect” on the Hall. “People have a thirst for sports and doing things that aren’t necessarily crowds.”

He said with the Hall of Fame, trade shows and other leisure activities closed or canceled for the immediate future, the impact has and will trickle into other businesses. Without assistance, he estimates as much as 40 percent of local restaurants may not recover from the shutdown.

“This was a thriving sector,” Lesser said, noting the impact was sudden and immediate. “This was speeding along the highway and slamming on the brakes.”

## ‘Pent-Up Demand’

Wydra said that some are projecting the economic hit to the travel and tourism sector could be as high as nine to 11 times worse than that experienced in the aftermath of 9/11. In Western Mass., she said the busiest months are May, August and September. At least for now, scheduled events have already been canceled into August.

“We are anticipating pent-up demand,” Wydra said, expressing her hope that once businesses are allowed to reopen, spending will resume.

GSCVB, Wydra said, is approaching the recovery in three phases: Inspire, Inquire and Explore. They are currently in the Inspire phase, where the organization is trying to get people to think about Western Mass and the varied attractions in Downtown Springfield as well the outdoor recreation opportunities up and down the Pioneer Valley. With May 3-9 being National Tourism Week, she said the organization has created postcards promoting the region and are in the process of developing a video. The marketing and promotional materials will promote

Western Mass. in the New York and Boston markets, which compete with the Pioneer Valley for tourism dollars.

With the Inquire phase, she said they anticipate folks will begin to travel and spend their dollars close to home, and ultimately, get out and explore the region once more.

Doleva said one way folks can help the local economy is through booking events in the region, looking at the fall and next summer when life is likely to normalize. Wydra said individuals can try to help businesses at the cash register, utilizing the limited services available, as “everyone has bills to pay.”

## Opportunity

Lesser told Turley Publications that the closures are designed to help prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, but all government officials must work to ensure necessary aid reaches the people most in need.

“We need to avoid temporary closures from becoming permanent,” he said. “I know how urgent this is and we are doing everything we possibly can.”

Lesser said his focus has been on helping communities and businesses get the resources they need to get through. A challenge, he noted, is that there are parallel crises – health and economic – and there is a need to address both at the state level. While there is a “deep and very severe recession,” he said he and his colleagues are working together to ensure communities and businesses receive the resources they need to rebuild on both fronts.

“We’re going to work together and we’re going to overcome,” Lesser said. “This is a moment of great test and consequence to our whole world.”

During the live stream session, Doleva said the shutdown poses an opportunity for the region and state to respond together and rebuild.

“I think this is an opportunity to show your colleagues and demonstrate to all the citizens of the State how important hospitality and tourism is because it has a lot of jobs, it drives a lot of tax revenue, “ he said. “This is a real time as we come out of this that we can elevate the respect of the hospitality and tourism industry.”

## ASPARAGUS from page 4

the northern most row of the garden so that it won’t shade out other plants. By planting the asparagus in a separate location you can also better cater to the plants’ unique needs.

In order to thrive, asparagus plants require full sun, fertile soil, a neutral pH, and a weed-free bed. If time allows prepare the site in the fall prior to spring planting by removing the sod from grassy areas and by making the necessary adjustments to the soil with the addition of lime and balanced organic fertilizers. A soil test will determine accurate amounts for your site.

Once asparagus crowns have been purchased you shouldn’t wait too long to plant them or they will dry out. At first look, the roots look like fleshy white tentacles of an octopus radiating out from its

head! If planting ASAP is unlikely store them in moist sphagnum moss until you are able to get them in the ground. New advice recommends planting the crowns in trenches 8 to 10 inches deep. It is helpful to incorporate additional lime and bone meal thoroughly into the bottom of the planting furrow. Set plants on small mounds of soil 12 to 18 inches apart in the row and cover with 2 inches of soil. As the spears poke through this first layer of soil and begin to fern out, gradually fill in the trench with a mixture of soil and finished compost. It should take six weeks for the furrow to be completely filled in. Water regularly and topdress with fertilizer in August of the first year and every spring thereafter. A thick application of compost at this time will also enhance fertility, while liming annually will help keep the pH neutral.

New studies indicate that spears can

be harvested for a week long period the year after planting. Simply cut with a sharp knife at the soil surface. The following year expand your harvest to four weeks; by year three a full harvest season of eight weeks is possible. After harvest let the foliage grow, once winter killed it can be cut back and removed from the garden site in case it harbors insect eggs. Good hygiene and hand picking will reduce populations of the asparagus beetle and other culprits of the asparagus patch.

My husband lovingly broke his back helping me clear the sod and remove the stones, shall I say boulders, from the area destined to be the asparagus patch. Maybe by Sunday the spears will be tall enough to harvest, that would be neat, indeed. And what about this year’s gift? Well along the same theme I have a project up my sleeve. A new picket fence perhaps!

Here’s wishing everyone out there a

Happy Mother’s Day!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.*

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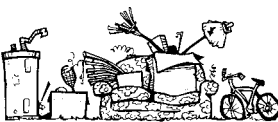
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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## Holyoke Community College donates surplus food to nonprofits

HOLYOKE – Surplus food from Holyoke Community College has benefited hundreds of individuals and families who frequent area food pantries and social service agencies.

With the HCC campus now closed and all classes moved online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the college donated its perishable food supplies to three area nonprofits, the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Center in Springfield, the YWCA Transitional Living Program in Holyoke and the Easthampton Community Center in Easthampton.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts helped coordinate the donations.

In late March, college

staff emptied the pantries and refrigerators at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute on Race Street. Stacy Graves, the institute coordinator, estimated that the college donated about \$600 worth of produce, fruit, milk, eggs, butter, yogurt and cream to the YWCA Transitional Living Program. The food had been slated for use in HCC's Culinary Arts program.

"I hope you guys like carrots and potatoes because there's lots of them," Graves said to Sharifa Forbes, the YWCA program supervisor, as they unloaded the van.

"We really do appreciate it," Forbes said. "Thank you so much for this. This is awesome."

Tess Gordon, the YW-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sarah Schmidt, director of programming for HCC's Center for Excellence, and Stacy Graves, coordinator of the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, load a cargo van with surplus produce and other food.

CA's direct service advocate, said the food would be portioned out for the dozen or more teen moms

who live with their children at the center, where they prepare their own meals.

"Right now, with COVID-19, it's hard for them to go out into the community to shop, especially with keeping their kids safe," Gordon said.

"I wish I could give you a big hug," Forbes said to Graves from a safe distance in the parking lot outside the center. "It helps out a lot. Times are uncertain. The girls are nervous."

On another day, after emptying the walk-in coolers of the college's cafeteria kitchen, Mark Pronovost, HCC director of Aramark/Dining Services, delivered nearly 400 pounds of assorted produce, fruit and dairy products to the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Center, enough food, he was told,

for 327 meals.

Pronovost also cleaned all the perishables out of the college's vending machines and delivered those items -fresh fruit, dairy products, yogurt, chips, popcorn, and pretzels and other retail products to the Easthampton Community Center, which runs a food pantry for area residents and works closely with HCC's Thrive Student Resource Center to provide free backpacks and school supplies to low-income students and families.

"If we hadn't done this we would just been throwing all the food in the trash," said Pronovost. "It's impressive that HCC is willing to do this, and I'm very happy to do."

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CPE Forum goes online for 40th anniversary

WESTFIELD – The Continuing Professional Education Forum announced that its seven-week spring series will be held online for the first time, as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. This semester includes a four-hour Professional Ethics program that meets the mandatory licensing requirements for certified public accountants.

The programs are scheduled for the following Tuesdays:

May 12 – “SECURE Act Solutions,” Kevin Quinn, J.D., Legacy Counsellors

May 19 – “Managing Business within a Constantly Evolving New Reality,” Ravi Kulkarni and Lynn Whitney, Clear Vision Alliance

May 26 – “Fixed Income Markets, Portfolios of the Future and Tax Harvesting,” Michael Callahan, Edu4Retirement

June 2 – “Employee Benefits in 2020,” Peter Miller, MillBrook Benefits

June 9 – “Wealth Transfers During Time of Crisis,” Kevin Quinn, J.D., Legacy Counsellors

June 16 – “Elder Law and Asset Protection Planning,” attorney Holly Lewis

June 23 – “Professional Ethics,” Josephine Sarnelli, CPA, Consultant and

Forensic Accountant

The CPE Forum was established in 1980 by Josephine Sarnelli, CPA. She continues to volunteer her services in organizing 40 hours of educational programming each year. The Forum’s mission is to provide high quality educational programs at a low cost to business professionals, including certified public accountants and others seeking continuing professional educational credits for licensing purposes.

Cost is \$100, which provides 23 hours of continuing professional education credits. The first week and last week of programs are four hours in duration, starting at 2 p.m. The other programs are three hours and start at 3 p.m.

Sessions are offered online and can be accessed using a laptop or desktop computer, tablet or smartphone. No camera or microphone are required for participants.

Advance registration is required. Payment to the CPE Forum should be mailed to 14 Mill St., Westfield, MA 01085. For more information, visit [www.cpeforum.org](http://www.cpeforum.org) or call 413-746-9067.

State reports 70K unemployment claims in latest update

BOSTON – From April 19-25, Massachusetts had 70,552 individuals file an initial claim for standard unemployment insurance, the fourth consecutive week of fewer initial claims filed over the previous week, according to the latest information from the state’s Department of Unemployment Assistance.

Since March 15, a total of 722,009 initial claims were filed. As the number of initial claims continues to decrease, the number of claimants filing for their weekly benefit each week continues to grow. For the week of April 19-25, there were a total of 527,538 claimants, an increase of 13.8 percent over the previous week, who filed for their weekly unemployment benefits. Food and Accommodation with 93,168, Retail Trade at 69,333 and Health and Social Assistance with 66,202 showed the largest number of claimants who filed for their weekly unemployment benefits, the state reports.

The Cares Act created a new temporary federal program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, which provides unemployment benefits to individuals who are self-employed, gig workers and those not covered by regular unemployment compensation. During the same week, there were a total of 171,598 PUA claims.

From March 15 to April 25, combining UI and PUA, Massachusetts had a total of 893,607 claims filed for unemployment insurance.

Currently, the Department of Unemployment Assistance is paying standard unemployment insurance benefits to roughly 450,000 claimants and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to around 150,000 claimants. Since March 15, nearly 700,000 claims have been paid amounting to more than \$2.3 billion in disbursements to beneficiaries of both programs.

Farm Bureau supports local farmers during ‘Beef Month’

MARLBOROUGH – As social distancing has become an important step towards keeping families healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, many consumers have made changes to cooking at home. With May known as beef month, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation reminds consumers to purchase their beef locally.

“The 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture indicates that there are 879 beef cattle operations in Massachusetts with 6,920 head,” said MFBF President Mark Amato. “And this product is available to consumers as farmers adapt their businesses for social distancing and take measures to ensure the safety of consumers and their employees.”

According to the Farm Bureau, many farmers have created new ways to purchase directly from them including curbside pick up or home delivery. They advise to check farm websites or contact them directly to see about the best option and if their hours have changed.

“It is remarkable to see how the farming community has risen to the occasion and is working to provide consumers with local food while keeping everyone as safe as possible,” Amato said. “The creative solutions we have seen to COVID-19 and keeping the local food supply accessible has been impressive.”

To find local beef producers visit [www.nebpi.org/northeast-beef-directory/where-to-buy](http://www.nebpi.org/northeast-beef-directory/where-to-buy).

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